GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5567
ANSWERED ON:16.05.2007
ANTI-ASTHAMATIC DRUG
Hasan Chaudhary Munawwar

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Inhalers containing anti-asthamatic drug and steroids are being marketed by some drug companies;

(b) if so, whether the steroid has no role to play for treatment for treatment of Asthma;

(c) if so, the facts in this regard;

(d) whether steroids have toxic effects;

(e) if so, the details of such effects; and

(f) the justification for granting marketing permission of such drugs?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SMT. PANABAKA LAKSHMI)

(a) to (c) Inhalers containing a combination of long-acting bronchodilator plus corticosterioids helps patients with asthma for better control of their symptoms and are convenient to use. The combination works to effectively treat asthma by
(i) the bronchodilator works by widening airways, making it easier to breathe and
(ii) the steroids reduce and prevent inflammation of airways. Such combination anti-asthmatics are used all over the world.

(d) to (e) Steroids are a group of medicines that are used to treat conditions where there is inflammation or swelling. The most common side-effect of taking steroids from inhaler is a sore in the mouth due to an infection called oral thrush. To reduce the chances of this infection, doctors advise the use of a spacer device and rinsing of the mouth after inhalation.

(f) Marketing permissions of Fixed Dose Combinations (FDCs) like Salmeterol + Fluticasone and Budesonide + Formaterol are granted based on the satisfactory safety, efficacy and quality control data base.